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REMARKS

Claims 1-48 were present in the original application. Claims 1-34 and 36-43 have been examined. Claims 1-9, 14-26, 28, 31-33 and 36-43 stand rejected, claims 27 and 34 are allowable, and claims 10-13, 29 and 30 are objected to. In the present amendment, claims 35 and 44-48 have been withdrawn, claims 1-5, 10, 29 and 37 have been canceled, and claims 6, 28, 30, 36 and 39-43 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. Therefore, after entry of the above amendments, claims 6-9, 11-28, 30-34, 36 and 38-43 will be pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Election/Restrictions

In view of the restriction requirement dated 9/30/2004, Applicant elects to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-34 and 36-43. Claims 35 and 44-48 have been withdrawn in response to the restriction requirement.

Allowable Claims 27 and 34

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 27 and 34.

Objected to Claims 10-13, 29 and 30

Claims 10-13, 29 and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 6 has been amended to include all of the limitations of objected to claim 10. Claim 10 has been canceled as a result. Applicant submits that claim 6 is now allowable and that claims 7-9 and 11-26, which are all dependent on claim 6, are also allowable.

Independent claim 28 has been amended to include all of the limitations of objected to claim 29. Claim 29 has been canceled as a result. Applicant submits that claim 28 is now allowable and that claims 30-33, which are all dependent on claim 28, are also allowable.

Rejection of Claims 1-5 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

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Claims 1, 2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mollerion *et al* (U.S. Patent No. 4,168,401) in view of Miyaou *et al* (U.S. Patent No. 4,841,524).

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mollerion in view of Miyaou and further in view of Kato *et al* (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,441).

Claims 1-5 have been canceled.

Rejection of Claims 6-9, 14-26, 28 and 31-33 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 6-9, 14-26, 28 and 31-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mollerion in view of Kato.

Independent claim 6 has been amended to include all of the limitations of objected to claim 10. Hence, claims 6-9 and 14-26 should be allowable.

Independent claim 28 has been amended to include all of the limitations of objected to claim 29. Hence, claims 28 and 31-33 should be allowable.

Claims 36-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Molleron in view of Kato for the reasons noted for claims 6-9, 14-26, 28 and 31-33.

Independent claim 36 has been amended to recite “time multiplexing the set of latched data bits into a sequence of time multiplexed data bits,” which corresponds to the feature recited in objected to claim 10. Hence, Applicant submits that independent claim 36 should be allowable for similar reason as independent claim 6. Claim 37 has been canceled. Claims 38-43 are dependent on claim 36 and should also be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (650) 289-0600.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 50-1229.

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Respectfully submitted,



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